

**MARYLAND BOARD OF PHYSICIANS  
ATHLETIC TRAINERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 110**

**PRESENT:** John Bielawski, ATC, Chair, Andrew Tucker Morris, M.D.,  
John Michie, D.C., Rick Peret, Jr., PT, Valerie E. Cothran, M.D.,  
Karl Bailey, ATC, Lori Bristow, M.Ed., ATC

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carole Catalfo, Esq., Executive Director, Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel  
Phyllis Washington, Administrative Specialist

**ABSENT:** Karen James, OTR/CHT, Richard Hinton, M.D., Robin Bailey, Public Policy  
Analyst, Ellen Douglas Smith, Chief, Allied Health

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bielawski called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Mr. Peret and seconded by Dr. Michie, the Committee approved the May 8, 2012 open meeting minutes.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

**BOARD COUNSEL REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discussion – Conflict in the statute – Health Occupations Article §14-5D-01 – Noreen Rubin, Esq. and Richard Hinton, M.D.**

Ms. Rubin stated that there is no conflict in the statute. The issue for the Committee is whether or not firefighters can be added to the list of individuals for whom athletic trainers would provide services.

At the time the statute was promulgated, the concept of industrial athletes was not discussed by the legislature.

If one looks at industrial athletes on the internet, the issue becomes who to leave out. Firefighters, paramedics, construction workers, mechanics, welders and assembly line workers are all considered industrial athletes. There is nothing in the statute that includes this broad scope. If the Committee wants the Board to promulgate regulations including those job categories, they would need specific language. Firefighters are people who perform physically demanding work. It was not the intent of the legislature to include individuals who perform physically demanding work within the scope of the statute. The intent was to limit the scope of practice to athletics in certain settings.

Ms. Catalfo stated that if the Committee would like to include individuals who perform physically demanding work in the statute, it would not be a difficult concept to bring to the Board. If amending the statute to include industrial and tactical athletes is something the Committee would like to discuss, she would take the proposal to the Board Chair for discussion and place on the Board's agenda for discussion. The Committee would have to decide if there are professions, in addition to firefighters, they would consider industrial and tactical athletes.

Ms. Rubin asked the Committee if there is a difference between tactical and industrial athlete. The Committee did not know but would find out.

Ms. Catalfo asked the Committee if they would like staff to look at different meanings for tactical and industrial athletes and see how other states are handling them. If there are things the Committee would like to have available during a discussion of this issue, please let Allied Health staff or her know. She will assign staff to get it done and distributed ahead a time to allow the opportunity to review the information and maybe, it will help guide the discussion.

The Committee asked that this item be placed on the agenda for September and information be made available prior to the meeting.

### **Draft FY 2012 Annual Report**

There were no comments.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **New Hires**

Mr. Bielawski stated that Medstar entered into a contract with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to provide athletic training services to six of the twelve high schools by August 11, 2012. They hired six athletic trainers. Five of the six athletic trainers were able to begin work in enough time to meet the contractual obligation. The sixth athletic trainer did not get her evaluation and treatment protocol (ETP) to the Board in enough time for the Board to approve it so the contractual obligation was not met. Before an athletic trainer may practice, the Board is required to approve the ETP. Waiting for Board approval delays the employment process. Mr.

Bielawski suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to the Board to amend the statute to allow the Committee to approve the protocols.

Ms. Catalfo explained that the Board is looking into purchasing a new computer system which should make the licensure process go a lot more quickly. In the interim, the Board is looking at how they can modify the current system to make it more efficient.

### **Inquiry from an ATC**

Mr. Peret stated that he has received calls from athletic trainers who were concerned about the way the negotiations for athletic training services for Anne Arundel County public schools were handled. The athletic trainers felt the incentives ATI, a company based in Chicago, IL, were offering may have been unethical. For example, the company offered to place athletic trainers in doctor's office without a fee. They were also offering tickets to amusement parks.

Mr. Bielawski stated that the schools go through a closed bid process every three to four years. Medstar was part of the request for proposal process to offer athletic training coverage to six Anne Arundel County public high schools. Medstar provides athletic training services. The supervising physicians and athletic trainers will function out of Harbor Hospital. Mr. Bielawski stated that he does not feel there is an ethical issue.

Ms. Catalfo stated that she has reestablished the Board's Education, Training and Policy Unit. They are providing Board training within the next three weeks. If the Committee has any educational topics related to athletic training, she would like them brought to her attention. Ms. Catalfo mentioned that the Board's newsletter is coming up in September. If anyone would like to contribute an article, please let staff know. The Board is planning to publish a newsletter every three months. Board staff will take topics until August 22, 2012 for the September newsletter.

Mr. Bielawski suggested an article on concussion management.

Ms. Catalfo asked if there is someone who would like to assist Board staff in preparing an article on concussion management. If the Committee would like to prepare a brief article for the newsletter, the Board will place it in the newsletter.

### **Wooten's Basketball Camp**

Ms. Washington asked the Committee to review the Specialized Tasks for Coach Wooten's Basketball Camp over the counter medication general protocol program.

The Committee had concerns about the dosage of medication to be administered. They felt that the over-the-counter medication general protocol program should be more specific to the

milligrams and dosage administered. They will further review the protocol and respond to Ms. Washington.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by:



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Ellen Douglas Smith  
Chief, Allied Health